SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, there are two questions here. One has caused a great deal of excitement and anxiety in my hon. friend's mind, as if the circular is not dated. The issuance of the circular by the Government is dated 3rd April, 2003. Now 45 days start from the 3rd April. So far as the question of their being a period is concerned, it is true; the BIFR is still very much there; but in reality it is not there; and the NCLT has not yet come into existence. As per our current estimate, the NCLT is likely to take—because all these things require a great deal of establishing, establishment, etc., etc.,—roughly another five to six months to establish. For the next five to six months, therefore, we have rather a lame duck sort of situation, in which the BIFR is there on the statute books,but it is not really functional. I recognise that. That is why I shared the figures, and, as of the present moment, we have a request from 28 PSUs for budgetary support, which amounts to about Rs. 760 crores, and the recommendation to clear the dues in 45 days is only for those who pay from their own resources. This is being done by 13 PSUs. This 45-day obligation is not for other PSUs, where you have to deal with assets, convert assets into payable, etc. This 45 days' time is for those which are able to pay, for which I have given the figures and the amount. They must clear within 45 days of 3rd April. So far as others are concerned, we will deal separately.

विदेशों में स्थित पर्यटन कार्यालय

*363. **श्रीमती सविता शारदा:** क्या पर्यटन और संस्कृति मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) विदेशों में स्थित पर्यटन कार्यालयों पर प्रतिवर्ष कितनी राशि व्यय होती है और इससे भारतीय पर्यटन उद्योग को कितनी सहायता मिली है;

(ख) क्या सरकार ने विदेशों में स्थित इन कार्यालयों द्वारा प्रायोजित पर्यटकों के प्रतिशत के संबंध में कोई अध्ययन कराया है; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है?

पर्यटन और संस्कृति मंत्री (श्री जगमोहन): (क) से (ग) विवरण सभा पटल पर रख दिया गया है।

विवरण

(क) विदेशों में स्थित भारत पर्यटन कार्यालयों के लिए गैर-योजना शीर्ष के अधीन आबंटित राशि निम्नानुसार है:-

(i) 2002-03 के लिए संशोधित अनुमान - 16.78 करोड़ रुपए

(ii) 2003-04 के लिए बजट अनुमान - 17.48 करोड़ रुपए

उपर्युक्त के अलावा, विदेशी संवर्धन और प्रचार के लिए योजना शीर्ष के अंतर्गत, 2002-03 में 51.00 करोड़ रुपये आवंटित किए गए थे और 2003-04 के लिए 56.00 करोड़ रुपए आवंटित किए जा रहे हैं।

भारत पर्यटन कार्यालयों द्वारा विदेशी बाजारों में पर्यटन के संवर्धन के परिणामस्वरूप भारतीय पर्यटन उत्पादों के बारे में जागरूकता उत्पन्न होती है और सम्भाव्य पर्यटकों, जिनकी भारत यात्रा से भारतीय पर्यटन उद्योग को लाभ होता है, में भी रुचि बढ़ती है।

(ख) और (ग) इस संबंध में कोई अध्ययन संचालित नहीं किया गया है। विदेशों में स्थित भारत पर्यटन कार्यालयों द्वारा संचालित किए गए संवर्धनों के कारण, विदेशी पर्यटक आगमन 1960 में 123,095 से बढ़कर वर्ष 2002 में 2.36 मिलियन हो गए हैं।

Tourist offices abroad

†*363. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent annually on the Tourist offices abroad and to what extent it has helped the Indian Tourism Industry;

(b) whether Government have conducted any study with regard to the percentage of tourists sponsored by these offices; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Statement

(a) The amount allocated under Non-Plan Head to India Tourism Offices overseas is as follows:—

(i) Revised Estimates for 2002-03 — Rs. 16.78 crores

(ii) Budget Estimates for 2003-04—Rs. 17.48 crores

In addition to the above, under Plan Head, Rs. 51.00 crores were allocated in 2002-03 and Rs. 56.00 crores is being allocated for 2003-04 for overseas promotion and publicity.

Promotion of tourism in the overseas markets by the India tourism Offices results in creating awareness about the Indian Tourism products and also stimulates interest amongst the potential tourists, whose visit to India benefits the Indian tourism industry.

(b) and (c) No study has been conducted in this regard. However, on account of promotions conducted by India Tourism Offices overseas, the foreign tourist arrivals have increased from 123,095 in 1960 to 2.36 million in the year 2002.

श्रीमती सविता शारदा: सभापति महोदय, भारत उन देशों में से एक है जो 1951 में विश्व पर्यटन संगठन का सदस्य बन गया था लेकिन आज भी भारत, विदेशी पर्यटकों को आकर्षित करने में बहुत पीछे है क्योंकि अंतर्राष्ट्रीय पर्यटकों में से भारत सिर्फ 0.51 प्रतिशत पर्यटकों को ही आकर्षित कर पाया है। विदेशी पर्यटकों के माध्यम से भारत को प्रतिवर्ष करोड़ों रुपए की विदेशी मुद्रा प्राप्त होती है लेकिन गत कुछ वर्षों से भारत में आने वाले विदेशी पर्यटकों की संख्या बहुत कम हो गई है। भले ही हम भारतवासी ''अतिथि देवो भव'' कहते हैं लेकिन यह मान्यता थोड़ी गलत सी प्रतीत हो रही है क्योंकि जब भी विदेशी पर्यटक यहां आते हैं तो उनको बहुत सी मुश्किलों का सामना करना पड़ता है। कई बार वे धार्मिक और सामाजिक कारणों से यहां आते हैं लेकिन उनको काफी मुश्किलों का सामना करना पड़ता है।

श्री सभापति: आप सवाल पूछिए।

श्रीमती सविता शारदा: सभापति महोदय, मैं मंत्री महोदय से यह जानना चाहती हूं कि विदेशों में स्थित भारतीय पर्यटन कार्यालयों की कुल संख्या कितनी है तथा वे किन-किन देशों में स्थित हैं? मैं यह भी जानना चाहती हूं कि क्या सरकार को पर्यटन मंत्रालय के विदेशों में स्थित कार्यालयों में फिजूलखर्ची किए जाने के बारे में कोई

समाचार प्राप्त हुए हैं? यदि हां, तो सरकार ने विदेशों में स्थित पर्यटन कार्यालयों में फिजूलखर्ची को रोकने के लिए कोई कार्यवाही की है? यदि की है तो उसका तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है?

SHRI JAGMOHAN: Sir, this is not correct to say that the number of tourists has not gone up. In fact, it has gone up. I can give the figures that in 1960, there were 1,23,000 tourists who were coming here. Now, the number has increased to about 25,00,000. So far as the offices are concerned, there are 13 offices which are located in foreign countries, and I will supply their list. I can read them out, if she wants it. There is no question of any wrong thing being done by them, because they spend about Rs. 6 crores only on salaries and Rs. 10 crores on rent and other establishment expenditure. This is Rs. 16 crores. As against this, we are earning about Rs. 14,000 crores to Rs. 15,000 crores as foreign exchange.

श्रीमती सविता शारदा: सभापति महोदय, मेरा दूसरा प्रश्न यह है कि क्या सरकार ने विदेशी पर्यटकों के भारत आने में विदेशी कार्यालयों के योगदान और विदेशी पर्यटकों द्वारा पर्यटन क्षेत्र में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाने वाले तथ्यों का सर्वेक्षण कराया है? यदि हां तो उसका तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है? मैं यह भी पूछना चाहती हूं कि ...(व्यवधान)

श्री सभापति: बस आप ब्यौरा मांग लीजिए।

श्रीमती सविता शारदा: मैं मंत्री जी से यह निवेदन करना चाहती हूं कि आजकल जो किलिंग निमोनिया चल रहा है, उसको देखते हुए लगता है कि पर्यटकों की संख्या काफी कम हो जाएगी। क्या मंत्री महोदय के पास पर्यटकों को भारत लाने के लिए कोई विशेष प्रोत्साहन योजना है जिससे अधिक से अधिक पर्यटक भारत में आ सकें?

SHRI JAGMOHAN: Sir, during the last six months, inspite of various impediments, the number of tourists has gone up. We have increased the figures by 14 to 16 per cent during the last six months. So far as foreign exchange earning is concerned, it has gone up by 17 to 18 per cent during the last six months. So, the figure has been going up. So far as the killer pneumonia is concerned, we have no such case, and I don't think this is going to affect our country. We are making due publicity that India is free from this pneumonia.

DR. KARAN SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, thirty years ago, when tourism and civil aviation were under one Ministry, we had hit upon

an innovative scheme. At that time, there were only 7 Tourism Offices abroad but there were more than 50 Air India Offices. Therefore, Mr. Chairman, Sir, I said that Air India too should be involved with the Tourism Offices in tourism promotion and launching what is known as "Operation Europe" — and the record would be available in the Ministry's files. When it was so successful, it was extended to North America too. May I know from the hon. Minister whether he would now again consider, in the same way, integrating activities of Air India Offices abroad and Indian Airlines Offices abroad along with Tourism Offices; because only 11 Tourism Offices can never cover the world, whereas with these additional assets that we have, you can launch an integrated and more effective campaign. Would the hon. Minister respond?

SHRI JAGMOHAN: Sir, we have not eleven but thirteen offices and we are going to add three more — one in Kaula Lumpur, one in Bangkok and one in China. So, this number is going to increase; we are also looking towards East and expanding it. So far as Air India Offices are concerned, we always have coordination with them, and whenever we have a mart at various places or road-shows, we do involve all these agencies whether they are Air India or our own Missions over there. So, we do try to coordinate and try to get the best out of it. I myself have gone to all these marts which have been held recently, particularly Berlin, London and Tokyo; we have made presentations covering all aspects of our new programmes and new ventures that we have initiated. This has had a good positive impact at various places. As a result, the number of tourists from those places is increasing.

SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Sir, Ministers of Tourism of our States and Centre, as well as officials, are very often going to foreign places in the name of improving tourism. Really, they are not improving but only spending from the Budget. I would like to know whether Government of India has any mechanism to curtail this sort of 'pleasure trips' to foreign countries.

SHRI JAGMOHAN: Sir, State Governments have their own programmes and they have their own expenditure. It is for them to decide; we don't have any control over their expenditure, but we do

advise them to coordinate, for example, for all those marts which were held abroad, we did advise them. We also advise that wherever they have got a potential they should go there; otherwise, they should not go there.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 364.

Erosion of market capitalisation of BSE

*364. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:††
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the market capitalisation of the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) was eroded by about 4 per cent during the first week after the presentation of the Budget 2003; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) A Statement is placed on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The market capitalisation on the Bombay Stock Exchange fell from Rs. 619872.6 crores on the budget day, *i.e.* 28th of February, 2003, to Rs. 595004.96 crores on 7th March, 2003. This was a fall of about 4%.

(b) According to the BSE, the impending conflict in the Middle East could have dampened the market sentiment leading to the erosion in the equity prices, a trend which was evident in the major international markets with indices like Dow Jones, Nasdaq Composite, FTSE and S&P 500 down by 1.91%, 2.41%, 4.91% and 1.46% respectively during the period of 28th February, 2003 to 7th March, 2003.

SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, in the reply given by the hon. Minister, he has stated that during the period of the

††The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri J. Chitharanjan.